



News From City Hall

State of the City Hank Williams, Mayor

2009 was a challenging year for everyone, including the City of Central Point. The downturn in the real estate market caused substantial reduction in revenue for the City. In the past the city would issue hundreds of residential building permits, in 2009 we issued 15. The Administrators of the City saw this decline coming and were able to save most jobs and programs. Although an increase is allowed by state, the city has not raised your property taxes and we do not see the need in 2010. Our city management employees even volunteered to give up their cost of living increase in 2009 to help save funds.

The Council has gotten criticism for implementing a water rate increase and a storm water fee. The City buys water from the Medford Water Commission. The Commission intends to increase the size of the Duff Plant on the Rogue River in the next few years and they are passing those rates on to the cities. We have been able to absorb the increases until this year. The Council approved a change in the water rate structure to cover those increases. The new rate structure encourages water conservation which is a mandate from the State. State and federal mandates require cities to protect streams from pollutants and to help do this the city implemented the storm water fee.

The Council attempted to pass a 3 cent per gallon fuel tax for street improvements replacing the \$5.00 per month Street Utility Fee, and potentially save you money. However, there were not four affirmative votes even though the majority of the Council wanted to approve it. Our City Charter requires four yes votes to pass any motion, and the Mayor can only break a tie. The State did pass a 6 cent per gallon gas tax increase and the Council decided to forgo the City tax, even though it would have provided the city with more revenue than the State tax for road improvements.

The Regional Land Use Plan (RPS) for the Rogue Valley should conclude in 2010. I have been involved in this process for the past seven years with other city officials. The process will allow for 50 years of growth in the Rogue Valley. Transportation corridors can be planned as part of the growth and land owners will have more certainty of the future growth of their property. The plan has involved a lot of compromises through the process. Central Point did not get enough land to accommodate 50 years of growth, but it is an improvement over the present situation.

Jackson County is encouraging cities to take jurisdiction of county roads within their city limits. Previously when a city would take jurisdiction the County would compensate the city for the cost to bring the road up to city standards. The County no longer has the budget to do this and is requiring cities to take jurisdiction without compensation. Central Point may be forced to take control of some of these roads. We hope that citizens will be patient with us in fixing the streets and sidewalks, these are expensive projects and it may take some time to have enough funds to improve them.

If you have questions please feel free to contact me at hank.williams@centralpointoregon.gov
I hope you all have a prosperous and safe 2010.



Parks and Recreation Upcoming Events

Annual Egg Hunt- April 3rd 11:00-1:00
City Wide Clean-up - April 24th 9:00-12:00
City Wide Yard Sale- May 15th 9:00-5:00
Contact Shelly at 541-664-3321 ext 214
Email: shelly.brown@centralpointoregon.gov



It's Flood Season Are You Prepared?

You need to know how you may be impacted by the flood map changes. Implications could impact your property's flood risk designation, whether or not you will need to purchase flood insurance and if your property will be subject to additional floodplain development requirements.

The new maps present the best available flood risk information for the City. Since 2001, the City has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and an independent consultant to study the floodplains and prepare the new maps as part of a national map modernization initiative. With up-to-date flood risk information, property owners, business owners, renters, developers, builders and local decision makers are better equipped to increase their vulnerability to future flood events.

Flood insurance requirements are going to affect many residents in the community. Properties located in the high risk (1% annual chance) floodplain with a loan from a federally regulated lender will be required to purchase a flood insurance policy. There is a grandfathering rule that will allow property owners to keep lower rates if insurance is purchased prior to the map adoption date.

For more information you will need to determine whether or not your property's flood zone is changing. To understand how the new maps are likely to affect you, contact the Floodplain/Stormwater Coordinator for a community Floodplain Determination. Additional information is available on our website at www.centralpointoregon.gov under the Floodplain Mapping Page in the Public Works Department section.

"911 Cell Phone Bank

The Central Point Police Department is proud to be a participant in the 911 Cell Phone Bank Partnerships which is a program that provides both funds and 911 cell phones to participating communities for use in local programs. The 911 Cell Phone Bank takes the donated cell phones to their processing center, where higher valued cells phones are converted to cash which is given back to the community for use in their local programs. The lower valued functioning cell phones are added to the 911 Cell Phone Bank, and are distributed to communities at no charge and given out to vulnerable seniors, domestic violence victims and other citizens in need.

In the two years that the 911 Cell Phone Bank has been in operation, more than \$250,000 has been returned to public agencies, and more than 2,000 911 cell phones have been distributed every month. In addition, for each valued cell phone received to 911 Cell Phone Bank, a donation will be made to NAIT, The National Association of Triads, Inc. for ongoing program support.

The Central Point Police Department will have a drop box located in the police department for citizens to donate their unused cell phones to use in this program. There is no cost to participate in the 911 Cell Phone Bank Program and the NAIT, which is a subsidiary of the National Sheriffs' Association, Sheriff's Offices and all Law Enforcement agencies are eligible. For more information you can contact the Central Point Police Department at (541) 664-5578 or www.911cellphonebank.com.



Central Point's Flood Maps Are Changing.....

We are still in the midst of this year's flood season. Typically floods are most likely to occur in Central Point between late October and early April. Remember there are two types of flooding that impact our community: riverine and urban. Riverine flooding occurs when water levels in our streams spill over the creek banks and inundate surrounding areas. Urban flooding results when the ground becomes saturated due to large amounts of rainfall and is no longer able to soak into the ground. Due to Central Point's flat terrain, property owners throughout the City may experience ponding even if the property is located outside the mapped floodplain and nowhere near a creek.

The City Public Works Department works hard every year to be prepared for potential flood events during the flood season. Currently Public Works has 20,000 sandbags on hand at the Public Works Corporate Yard to provide to local residents in the event a flood

becomes imminent. We provide the bags and the sand, but local residents must be prepared to fill their own sandbags. After a flood warning has been issued, you can contact the Central Point Public Works Department during regular business hours at 664-7602 to find out the location of local sandbag staging areas. After business hours, contact the City's emergency line at 664-5578.

Should a flood situation become imminent in Jackson County, including Central Point, the County has an Alert and Warning System, which is an emergency broadcast system that receives flood warnings from a variety of government and non-government sources. The flood warning system is handled through the Jackson County Emergency Operations Center.

For more information about the City's Floodplain Management Program, specifically flood preparedness, check out the City's website at www.centralpointoregon.gov.



CALL 8-1-1

Call for utility locates before you dig!

It is almost time for spring projects. The City of Central Point wants to remind their residents to call for locates before you start a project where you will have to break ground. Examples would be; building a fence, installing a mailbox post, planting a tree or bush, rototilling, concrete work, installing a sprinkler system, etc. You need to allow 48 hours for the lines to be located before you begin to dig, so plan ahead. Calling 8-1-1 is a free call and they can also be reached at their original number 1-800-332-2344.



RETROREFLECTO- METER



Sounds like something from a Star Wars movie!

A retroreflectometer is actually a very useful tool that the City of Central Point uses to check the visibility of our signs around town, especially when headlights hit them.

We have recently tested every sign in the city and we got very good results. We tested all signs, from stop signs, street name signs, speed limit signs and yield signs. We found a small number that needed to be changed out, but overall our retroreflectivity was very good.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Central Point is looking for volunteers for the startup of the new Central Point CERT organization. CERT stands for **Community Emergency Response Team** and it is all about neighbor helping neighbor. What is CERT? For a great example, the Ashland CERT's mission reads:

"Our mission is to prepare citizens to respond effectively in disaster. CERT trains residents to prepare their families and neighborhoods to mitigate, respond to and recover from disaster. Our goal is to strengthen our community and make it more resilient neighborhood by neighborhood."

Take a look at Ashland CERT's web site at www.ashlandcert.org, if you want to read more about this successful program. Remember the flooding Central Point has had in the past? If you have been the victim of a disaster or you just want to help others during those times, you might identify with the need for an organization of citizens that are very well trained to respond to help whomever and to do whatever needs to be accomplished in our community.

This is a great opportunity to become involved with helping others and, get some good training to be able to help yourself as well.

If you are interested in registering as a prospective member of the new Central Point CERT, please contact Rick Bartlett at 541-664-3321 x269 or rick.bartlett@centralpointoregon.gov.

72 HOUR PARKING ORDINANCE:

Most cities have an ordinance regarding parking vehicles on the street. Central Point Municipal Code 10.04.112 (A)(1), states "No person shall park any mobile home, motor home, van, car, camper, camp trailer, boat or other recreational vehicle, truck or utility trailer in one location on any portion of any public street or alley for any period longer than seventy-two consecutive hours, except that short-term out of town visitors may park such vehicles for a period not to exceed two weeks in any one calendar year". Ordinance No. 1729, was established to keep people from storing vehicles in the public right of way. Street sweepers need to be able to sweep all the streets to help reduce items that flow into the storm drains. Most cities and highways have similar ordinances, some more restrictive (24 hours). If you use the vehicle every day you can park it in the same location. If you don't use the vehicle often, park it in your driveway or some where on your property in order to avoid receiving a citation, which can be as much as \$255.00. If the vehicle is not currently registered or insured, it can not be parked on the street and is subject to a fine or towing at the owners expense.

Public Works

What have we been up to?

Storm Drain: During the months of November and December the storm drain crew cleaned and flushed 18 miles of storm drain mainline. Every year we focus on a specific area of town and also hit the same problem areas on an annual basis.

Streets: During January and February, the street crew worked their way around the city doing their annual tree trimming. The main priority this year was the alleys. The tree trimming project will probably be cut short this year due to trees starting to bud

out already.

Water: During November, December and January, the water crew visited every valve on the east side of I-5. They actuate or work the valve open and closed to make sure it will operate if needed and also document and record the valve into the system. We target a certain area of the city annually and they have visited every valve in the city over the last 5 years. Next year, we will start back through the city again.

Citywide Cleanup and Recycling

This year's Citywide cleanup and recycling event is scheduled for April 24, 2010 at the Skate Park parking lot across from Central Point Elementary.

If interested in being part of the clean-up efforts please contact the Parks Department at 664-3321 ext. 214. Items to be recycled include batteries, all electronics including older TV's and computers, cell phones, books, eye glasses. wood and lawn debris will be recycled with BioMass.

Street lights—Who to contact

If you notice a streetlight that is out, always on, or cycles off and on, who do you contact to repair?

Pacific Power & Light and City streetlights all have some type of identification number on the pole. When you report a problem it is helpful to have the ID or pole number along with the nearest street address and cross street.

Pacific Power and Light (PP & L) is responsible for all regular, non-decorative streetlights. You may report an inoperable streetlight by calling their customer service number 1-888-221-7070 or 1-877-LITESOUT (1-877-548-37688). You can also visit their website at www.pacificpower.net then under customer service (lower right hand side of the page)

you can click on the link "Report a Streetlight Outage" which will take you to an online form you can send directly to them or you can print out and fax.

If the light is a decorative streetlight or over in the Twin Creeks area of Central Point you can call Public Works @ 541-664-3321 Ext. 241 or you can go to the city website www.centralpointoregon.gov and under Departments & Services click on the Police Department link then the "Online Police Report" tab and in the drop down box click "Inoperable Streetlight" where you can fill in the information and it will then be emailed to the correct department.

Your information will be forwarded to the correct company responsible and in most cases the problem is resolved within a few business days.

Volunteers Still Needed

Central Point is accepting applications of interest for appointment to the following committees. Please contact City Recorder Deanna Casey at 541-423-1026 for more information.

Parks and Recreation Foundation
Parks and Recreation Commission
Multicultural Committee
Arts Commission
Budget Committee

You may also obtain an application at
www.centralpointoregon.gov

Calendar of Events

March

- 2 - Planning Commission 6 pm
- 9 - Citizens Advisory Committee 6 pm
- 11 - Council Meeting 7 pm
- 16 - Planning Commission 6 pm
- 15 - Council Study Session 6 pm
- 25 - Council Meeting 7 pm

April

- 6 - Planning Commission 6 pm
- 8 - Council Meeting 7 pm
- 12 - Budget Committee Meeting 6:00
- 13 - Citizens Advisory Committee 6 pm
- 15 - Park and Rec. Committee 6 pm
- 19 - Budget Committee Meeting 6 pm
- 20 - Planning Commission 6 pm
- 22 - Council Meeting 7 pm
- 27 - Traffic Safety Committee 6 pm

Regional Problem Solving - City of Central Point Open House and Public Meeting Schedule

The Regional Problem Solving Process has been ongoing for approximately ten years with the goal of creating Urban Reserve Areas for future city growth. This process is nearing completion and an open house and a series of public meetings will be held to discuss the ***Greater Bear Creek Regional Plan*** in order to forward a recommendation on the plan to Jackson County. The following meetings are scheduled for March and April:

March 9, 2010 at 6 p.m. – Citizens Advisory Committee Open House – Update on the ***Greater Bear Creek Regional Plan***

March 16, 2010 at 6 p.m. – Central Point Planning Commission Special Meeting – Introduction of ***Greater Bear Creek Regional Plan***

April 6, 2010 at 6 p.m. – Central Point Planning Commission Regular Meeting on ***Greater Bear Creek Regional Plan***

April 20, 2010 at 6 p.m. – Central Point Planning Commission Special Meeting on ***Greater Bear Creek Regional Plan (If Necessary)***

All meetings will be held in the Central Point City Council Chambers in City Hall located at 140 South Third Street. Please note that due to the nature of this process, meeting dates may change. To confirm meeting dates and times, contact the Central Point Planning Department at 541-423-1973 or via email: didi.thomas@centralpointoregon.gov